

REMARKS

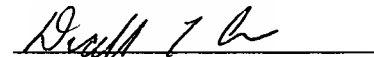
The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment indicates that two (2) claims numbered as "3" were presented in the previous Amendment, and that claim 8 should be identified as "(previously presented)." Applicant submits this Response in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

Applicants respectfully request a full Office Action on the merits.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 18, 2004